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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/966,732	09/28/2001	William F. Bowers	022730-0027	3575

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EXAMINER

MENON, KRISHNAN S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1723

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AS

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/966,732	BOWERS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Krishnan S Menon	1723	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 6-10 were pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated Bowers (US 6,269,957 B1).

Bowers teaches an ultrafiltration vessel comprising a vessel having an interior wall having regenerated cellulose surface, with an outlet port and ultrafiltration membrane covering the port (col 1 lines 48-55; col 2 line 64- col 3 line25; col 3 lines 42-60; col 4 lines 35-40;

Also see fig 10 A-D). The referenced passages contemplate covering the entire inner surface of the vessel by regenerated cellulose.

2. Claims 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable, over Bowers (US 6,269,957 B1)

Bowers teaches an ultrafiltration vessel comprising a vessel having an interior wall (col 2 line 64- col 3 line 25 and fig 10 A-D) with an outlet port (38, fig 5), an ultrafiltration membrane covering the port (col 4 lines 35-40), and the membrane having skin-to-skin seal effective to cover, and active, over the full wetted area of the vessel wall (col 3 lines 5-16 – when the halves are joined as described, they form a skin-to-skin seal of the membrane, covering the full wetted area) as in instant claim 7. The vessel comprises first and second halves (see fig 10 A-D, 13 A-E) and over-molded body portions holding the halves together as in instant claim 9. The half vessels are symmetric as in instant claim 10 (see fig 10 A-B).

Re the newly added limitation of “crush-seal” in claim 7, col 15 lines 33-50 describes compression seal (see fig 13D), and col 16 lines 27-35 describes how to use it for the two halves of the vessel in a clamshell construction. Col 7, line 66 – col 8, line 12 describes joining the halves like clamshells. Also, in crush seal, compression seal or ultrasonic welding of the two halves like clamshells, the final product in this clamshell joint cannot be differentiated from one-another, since the joint, being embedded in the wall, is not visible to the inside of the vessel, and the product no longer depends on the method of sealing. [Product by process: “[E]ven though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process.” In re *Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964,

966 (Fed. Cir. 1985).] The skin-to skin crush seal is effected by between the mating portions of the opposed half-cells as in claim 8 (see fig 10 A-D)

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 9/15/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Re argument that the skin-to-skin crush seal is not found in the prior art, the argument is moot due to the new grounds of rejection. Re the argument that the Bowers ref fig 10 at "e" requires cutting away, that part is described as 'only if needed'. While Bowers ref does not specifically recite skin to skin crush seal, Bowers teach skin to skin seal, and compression seal which is similar to crush seal, as described in the rejection.

Rest of the arguments are moot due to the new grounds for rejection.

Conclusion

This action has been made non-final due to the new grounds for rejection of claims 6 and 8.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Krishnan S Menon whose telephone number is 703-305-5999. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda L Walker can be reached on 703-308-0457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Application/Control Number: 09/966,732

Page 5

Art Unit: 1723

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

Krishnan Menon
Patent Examiner


W. L. WALKER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700